

**MINUTES OF THE  
COASTAL REGIONAL COMMISSION COUNCIL  
October 9, 2013  
Richmond Hill City Center, Richmond Hill, GA  
10:00 A.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Jim Thomas called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Invocation was provided by Clarence Knight, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Reggie Loper, Chris Blaine, Sean Register, Allen Brown, David Boland, Walter Gibson, Herb Jones, Shaw McVeigh, William Miller, Jim Thomas, Herb Hill, Matthew Barrow, Harold Fowler, Tom Ratcliffe, Dan Coty, Margaret Evans, Kelly Spratt, Donald Lovette, Bill Deloughy, Willis Keene, Edna Jackson, Robert Long, and Jason Coley.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jimmy Burnsed, Julie Martin, Mary Hunt, Linda Barker, Chap Bennett, Hugh Hodge, Craig Root, Gwendolyn Davis, Joe Brannen, William Boyd, Ken Lee, Russell Keen, and Al Scott.

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dorothy Glisson, Screven County; Clarence Knight, Kingsland; Ron Elliott, Fort Stewart.

**GUESTS:** Jeff Morris, USACE; Jackie Teel, Chatham MPC; Tina Hutcheson, DCA; Joe Parker, Jr., News Media; and Clark Byron, Coastal Empire News; Cathy Hill, GA Power; Bill Massey, Dewberry; Katherine Moore and Clay Mobley, Georgia Conservancy; Mayor Mary Warnell, Pembroke; Lewis Spears, DHS/OFSS/TSS; Jennifer Kline and Kelly Hill, GA DNR/CRD; Emily Markesteyn, Ogeechee Riverkeeper; Kirk Croasmun, Bryan County; David Smith, Okefenokee EMC; Franklin Goldwire, Guyton, GA; Major General Murray; Daniel Minckler, Cumberland Gas, Inc.; and UGA interns and staff.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Allen Burns, Executive Director; Lena Geiger, Finance Director; Lupita McClenning, Planning and Government Services Director; Don Masisak, Transportation Director; David Dantzler, Mobility Manager; Beth Kersey, Transportation Assistant; Taneka Beasley, Call Center Supervisor; Shakai Joyner, Senior Scheduler; Lauren Robesky, Economic Development Director, and Colletta Harper, Administrative Services Director.

**Employee Service Award:** Executive Director Burns presented an award to Beth Kersey, Transportation Assistant for her 15 years of service to our organization.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Chairman Thomas requested approval of the minutes from the September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Motion:** Herb Jones  
**Second:** Mayor Margaret Evans  
**Vote:** Unanimous

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Approval of Resolution to establish Commercial Credit Card Account Relationship with SunTrust Bank**  
– (See attachment 1, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.) A motion was made to approve the Resolution as presented.

**Motion:** Shaw McVeigh  
**Second:** Mayor Edna Jackson  
**Vote:** Unanimous

**Approval of Proclamation designing October as Community Planning Month.** *(See attachment 2, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* Ms. Lupita McClenning, Planning and Government Services Director read the proclamation. A motion was made to approve the Proclamation

**Motion:** Commissioner Walter Gibson

**Second:** Mayor Bill Deloughy

**Vote:** Unanimous

## **PRESENTATIONS**

**Fort Stewart Update** – General Murray reported that due to the government shutdown anything that costs money has been suspended until there is a budget. The process of reducing the number of soldiers from 530,000 to 490,000 is being accelerated. If brigades don't have a mission, they will not receive funding. If sequestration is not resolved, more brigades will be cut; encourage your legislative delegation to not let this happen. Marine Week is November 18-22; soldiers will have athletic competitions and the week will end with the Division Ball. They now have a wellness campus devoted to emotional and physical well-being of soldiers and their families. The Hunter Army Airfield air strip is closed for renovations. Currently working with Georgia Power for the installation of solar panels on some of their property. Frank Cochran Drive will be widened once there is a budget.

**Sustainable Development** – *(See Attachment 3, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* Ms. Katherine Moore, Sustainable Growth Manager, Georgia Conservancy provided a PowerPoint presentation advising members on who the conservancy was and the services they provide. Their non-profit organization advocates the use of sound environment policies and can provide educational training and technical assistance to help communities make smart land use decisions in siting new schools, deciding to build new ones or renovating existing ones. Georgia Tech is conducting a study on Bantam Towns in the South with populations of 5,000 or less to determine what makes some of them successful; Georgia has 391 towns.

**Storm Surge Study:** *(See Attachment 4, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* Mr. Bill Massey, Mr. Jeff Morris, and Ms. Lauren Hand provided a PowerPoint Presentation on the Georgia Hurricane Evacuation Study. Presentation focused on myths, facts, and maps/pictures depicting major hurricane water levels. Using various study components, GEO data has been built using GIS and has been saved in PDF format so everyone can use; a demonstration of this data was given. This information has been provided to local EMAs for their use and CDs were available at the meeting on a first-come first serve basis. Flood insurance is dramatically changing with the Biggert Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012; subsidized rates for non-primary/secondary residences are being phased out and subsidized rates for certain other classes will be eliminated over time.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Update on GARC** – GARC Chairman Clarence Knight reported that the Annual Conference will be held at the King and Prince on November 6-8.

**DRI Reports:** None.

**Project Status Reports** - *(See Attachments 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)* If anyone has any questions, please see staff after the meeting. Executive Director Burns noted that included with the Finance Report was a detail of the line item expenditures for the DHS and 5311 program for July-August, as requested by the Council. There is a deficit of \$100,000 that was due to unexpected costs with switching to a new service provider. Currently working with GDOT to reduce trips, number of days, etc.

Public hearings will be held, with these proposed changes there would be a potential 10-15% negative impact on riders; however, it would help bring us back in line with costs. Will keep monitoring costs and report every month.

**CADDA Report:** No questions were raised regarding the CADDA report. *(See Attachment 10, attached herein and made a part of these minutes.)*

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Emergency Preparedness is critical for everyone in our region. Discussions are underway to take study another level for inland counties.
- Port Authority has agreed to fund the deficit to deepen the Brunswick Port.
- Attended work sessions with Bloomingdale and Bryan County. As a reminder, staff is available to participate if you have a need.
- Federal Shutdown – two areas of concern are Transportation and Aging services. Dionne Lovett participated in a 10:00 a.m. conference call today. They were informed that their transportation services for seniors will end on October 22<sup>nd</sup> – this is a major component to our transportation system as DHS funding is used as a match for GDOT's 5311 funds. This has been explained to GDOT, and there may be piece-meal solutions. Hope to keep service running; however, worst case scenario is that October 22<sup>nd</sup> we have to discontinue service.

Aging Services were directed to begin notifying clients that on November 15<sup>th</sup> aging services will shut down. Folks in your communities will be getting notices that their services will be discontinued if Washington doesn't get it together. With 90% of our services not being provided, we will be forced to enact furloughs.

At the request of council members, will work to get a program on the agenda in November on the changes to the National Flood Insurance Program.

New staff members were introduced for Transportation – Taneka Beasley, Call Center Supervisor and Shakai Joyner, Senior Scheduler. These ladies have been working with us through Randstad. Planning – Hunter Key is our new GIS Manager.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m., with lunch following.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, November 13, 2013, at the Richmond Hill City Center at 10:00 a.m.**